

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00413 251559Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15

OES-06 EPA-04 CEQ-01 L-03 /078 W

-----260550Z 104169 /20

R 251205Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7124

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0413

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, IC

SUBJECT: SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORT: ADVERSE PUBLICITY AS A RESULT
OF U.S. AUTHORITIES DUMPING SCRAP METAL IN ICELANDIC
WATERS

FOLLOWING MSG FROM NAVSTA KEFLAVIK IC ACTION CINCLANT, CINCLANTFLT,
CHNAVPER, NAVJAG WASHDC INFO COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK, COMNAVAIRLANT
NORFOLK, COMFAIR KEFLAVIK, AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK DTG 230901Z MAR
77 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFB QUOTE

UNCLAS //N05822//

SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORT: ADVERSE PUBLICITY AS A RESULT OF U.S.
AUTHORITIES DUMPING SCRAP METAL IN ICELANDIC WATERS

A. SECNAVINST 5820.4D NOTAL

B. NAVAIR 11-100-1 NOTAL

1. IAW REF A, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT INCI-
DENT IS PROVIDED.

2. ADVERSE NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY RELATING TO ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF
ANTI-POLLUTION AGREEMENTS BY THE DEFENSE FORCE AND FAILURE OF
THE DEFENSE FORCE AUTHORITIES TO FOLLOW PROPER PROCEDURES IN
OBTAINING PERMISSION TO DUMP SCRAP METAL IN ICELANDIC WATERS
HAS RESULTED FROM THE FOLLOWING INCIDENT.

57. THE NAVAOSTATION WAS IN POSSESSION OF A LARGE NUMBERS OF
EXPENDED INITIATOR DEVICES THAT HAD BEEN USED AS A POWER SOURCE

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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00413 251559Z

FOR THE EJECTION OF SONOBUOYS FROM P3C AIRCRAFT. THESE DEVICES
ARE INERT AND ARE CONSIDERED HARMLESS TO BOTH HUMAN AND MARINE
LIFE. THE DEVICES ARE A CADMIUM PLATED STAINLESS STEEL ALLOWY
DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND LOCKED PRESSURE WITHOUT DEFORMATION. EACH
DEVICE HAS AN OVERALL LENGTH
OF 3.37 INCHES AND IS 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER. REF B REQUIRES THE
DISPOSAL OF THESE DEVICES IN WATER TO AVOID ANY REMOTE POSSIBILITY

OF PERSONNEL INJURY SHOULD ONE OF THE INITIATORS BE UNFIRED. PERMISSION WAS OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE, KEFLAVIK AIRPORT, TO REMOVE THE ITEMS FROM THE AGREED AREA. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR TRANSPORTATION OF THE DEVICES TO THE KEFLAVIK PIER BY THE SOUTH-ROUTE COMPANY. DISPOSAL AT SEA WAS ARRANGED WITH THE CAPTAIN OF THE MB ADALBJORG, HU 25, MR. SIGURDSSON. A STATEMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE CAPTAIN'S REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE DEVICES WERE DISPOSED OF AT APPROXIMATELY 64 13' NORTH AND 22 25' WEST. THE AREA OF DISPOSAL IS CALLED SYDRA HRAU ACCORDING TO THE SHIP'S REPRESENTATIVE, THERE IS NO DANGER OF THE DEVICES MOVING FROM THE AREA. THE AREA WAS DESCRIBED BY MR. SIGURDSSON AS ONE THAT IS OFTEN USED BY ICELANDIC CITIZENS TO DUMP SCRAP METAL AND HE HAD PERSONEL KNOWLEDGE THAT A LARGE BOAT HAD BEEN SCRAPPED THERE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT NO FISHING VESSEL CAN USE THAT AREA FOR TRAWLING, FISHING LINES, OR NET FISHING. THE WOODEN BOXES IN WHICH THE DEVICES WERE HAULED TO SEA WERE BROKEN UP AND RETURNED TO SHORE TO INSURE THAT NO HAZARD TO SHIPPING WOULD OCCUR. APPROXIMATELY 18,000 OF THESE DEVICES, WITH A TOTAL WEIGHT OF 41,000 POUNDS, WERE DISPOSED OF.

4. THE DEFENSE FORCE THOUGHT IT HAD OBTAINED PROPER PERMISSION FOR THIS DUMPING. AFTER THE FACT, IT APPEARS ALL NECESSARY FORMALITIES WERE NOT FOLLOWED. ON 22 MARCH 1977 THE U.S. CHAIRMAN OF THE ICELANDIC/U.S. DEFENSE COUNCIL SUBMITTED WTSTATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE ICELANDIC CHAIRMAN, AND ASSURED THAT ALL FUTURE DISPOSALS OF SIMILAR NATURE WILL BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO THE DEFENSE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

5. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. UNQUOTE
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PAGE 03 REYKJA 00413 251559Z

BLAKE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, WATER POLLUTION, TREATY VIOLATION, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977REYKJA00413
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-0174
Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770321/aaaaascx.tel
Line Count: 98
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0333d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Jul-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2995633
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORT: ADVERSE PUBLICITY AS A RESULT OF U.S. AUTHORITIES DUMPING SCRAP METAL IN ICELANDIC WATERS
TAGS: MARR, IC, US
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